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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3641

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 3 USNATO 5108

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, NL

SUBJ: NETHERLANDS MARITIME FORCE CHANGES; DPC MEETING SEPTEMBER 17

REF: A. USNATO 4943 DTG 111703Z SEP 75

B. USDELMC 725/75 DTG 091450Z SEP 75

C. USNATO 4942 DTG 111702Z SEP 75

D. USNATO 5017 DTG 151810Z SEP 75

E. USNATO 4356 DTG 151115Z AUG 75

F. THE HAGUE 4693 DTG 161558Z SEP 75

G. USNATO 4815 DTG 041751Z SEP 75

SUMMARY: DURING SEPT. 17 DPC DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED NETHERLANDS

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MARITIME FORCE CHANGES, U.S., FRG AND BELGIUM STRONGLY RESISTED
NETHERLANDS PROPOSALS ON POLITICAL AND MILITARY GROUNDS. U.K.,
ITALY, NORWAY AND DENMARK WERE MORE MODERATE IN CRITICISM, BUT ALL
REQUESTED NETHERLANDS RECONSIDERATION. OTHERS (INCLUDING CANADA)

WERE SILENT. AMB. HARTOGH (NETHERLANDS) PROVIDED FURTHER DETAILS ON 1976 DEFENSE SPENDING, WHICH WILL BE CUT 250 MILLION GUILDERS BELOW PREVIOUSLY PLANNED LEVELS, WITH SIMILAR REDUCTIONS IN 1977 AND 1978. DPC MADE MINOR CHANGES TO DRAFT SYG LETTER TO NETHERLANDS AND PRESS RELEASE, AND DELAYED, AT NETHERLANDS INSISTENCE, AUTHORITY TO ISSUE PRESS RELEASE FOR ONE WEEK. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING SEPT. 17 DPC DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED NETHERLANDS MARITIME FORCE CHANGES (REF A), SYG LUNS OPENED MEETING BY LABELLING PROPOSALS A "RUDE SHOCK TO ALLIES". HE CHARACTERIZED AS CORRECT NETHERLANDS DECISION TO INVOKE SPECIAL CONSULTATION PROCEDURES, IN VIEW OF FACT THAT CINCHAN WOULD LOSE 60 PER CENT OF ITS MARITIME PATROL AIRCRAFT. LUNS EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT SAVINGS TO BE EFFECTED BY MPA AND ASW GROUP AIR DEFENSE REDUCTIONS COULD NOT BE COMMENSURATE WITH SUCH A REDUCTION IN CAPABILITY. COMMENTING ON NETHERLANDS ECONOMIC SITUATION, HE NOTED THAT BUDGETARY SHORTFALLS APPEAR TO BE SHORT-TERM PROBLEM, THAT UNEMPLOYMENT IS UNLIKELY TO BE HELPED BY REDUCING EXPENDITURES FOR DEFENSE, THAT RATE OF INFLATION IS SLOWING DOWN, THAT NETHERLANDS BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS PICTURE IS POSITIVE, AND THAT ECONOMIC PROSPECTS FOR NETHERLANDS APPEAR NO WORSE THAN THOSE OF OTHER NATO COUNTRIES. HE THEN EXPRESSED WISH THAT AMBASSADOR HARTOGH WOULD CONFIRM DURING DISCUSSION THAT NO FURTHER REDUCTIONS ARE PROPOSED FOR 1976 OR LATER YEARS, AND ASKED GEN. COLLADAY (ACTING CHAIRMAN, MILITARY COMMITTEE) TO COMMENT ON MILITARY ASPECTS OF NETHERLANDS REDUCTIONS.

2. GEN. COLLADAY CITED MC ASSESSMENT (REF B) STATEMENTS WHICH CHARACTERIZE PROPOSED REDUCTIONS AS INVOLVING "UNACCEPTABLE RISK", AND NOTED ALREADY EXISTING CRITICAL SHORTAGES IN ASSIGNMENT OF MPA TO SACLANT AND CINCHAN. HE STATED THAT OTHER NATIONS WOULD BE UNABLE TO FILL GAPS CAUSED BY NETHERLANDS REDUCTIONS, AND NOTED MC VIEW THAT SUCH REDUCTIONS WOULD BE CONTRARY TO MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE 1975 AND PRINCIPLE OF UNDIMINISHED SECURITY. FINALLY, HE NOTED THAT THEY COULD RESULT IN UNRAVELLING OF SUPPORT FOR IMPORTANT DEFENSE CAPABILITIES ELSEWHERE IN THE ALLIANCE.

3. AMB. HARTOGH (NETHERLANDS) THANKED SYG NAD MILITARY AUTHORITIES
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FOR RAPID WAY IN WHICH THEY HAD HANDLED REDUCTION PROPOSALS, NOTING THAT THIS WOULD BE HELPFUL BECAUSE OF PARLIAMENTARY DISCUSSIONS OF NETHERLANDS DEFENSE BUDGET IN OCTOBER. HE STATED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES "TAKE NOTE" OF MILITARY JUDGMENTS ON NETHERLANDS PROPOSALS, BUT SAID THAT THESE JUDGMENTS DO NOT TAKE THE BROAD POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PICTURE INTO ACCOUNT. HE SAID THAT PREVIOUS NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENTS HAD REPEATEDLY POSTPONED MILITARY INVESTMENT EXPENDITURES AND THAT 1974 WHITE PAPER HAD ATTEMPTED TO FORM A MORE "COHESIVE DEFENSE PLAN" WHICH EMPHASIZED EQUIPMENT MODERNIZATION AND AN IMPROVED RATIO OF INVESTMENT TO OPERATING COSTS. GON CONSIDERED THAT ALLIES HAD CONSISTENTLY SHOWN TOO LITTLE UNDERSTANDING OF THE POSITIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF THIS WHITE PAPER. HE STATED THAT GON HAD BEEN UNABLE TO FORESEE BADLY WORSENING

ECONOMIC PICTURE AT TIME OF CONSULTATIONS ON 1974 WHITE PAPER.
IN RESPONSE TO SYG'S EARLIES QUESTION (PARA 1 ABOVE), HE STATED
THAT NETHERLANDS WILL REVIEW DEFENSE EXPENDITURES FOR 1977 AND
1978, AS WELL AS 1976, AND THAT RESULTS WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE
ALLIANCE AS NECESSARY.

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4. TURNING TO SPECIFIC REDUCTION PROPOSALS, HARTOGH NOTED THAT,
IN THE CASE OF THE CRUISER, "SEVEN PROVINCES", A KNOWN GAP WOULD
MERELY BE EXTENDED BY TWO YEARS, AND THAT, IN THE CASE OF THE
PATROL AIRCRAFT, DECISION ON REPLACEMENT WAS MERELY POSTPONED.
REGARDING LATTER, HE STATED THAT REPLACEMENT DECISION WOULD ALSO
DEPEND ON TALKS BETWEEN NETHERLANDS AND FRG ON POSSIBLE STAND-
ARDIZATION AND COOPERATION. HE NOTED FURTHER THAT NETHERLANDS
PROPOSALS LEAVE CENTER REGION UNTOUCHED, AND STATED THAT DEFENSE
SAVINGS "ARE ONLY PART OF A MUCH LARGER SAVINGS PROGRAM THAT WILL
INCLUDE PERSONNEL COSTS AND SOCIAL BENEFITS." HE SAID THAT ALL
GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WOULD BE CUT IN EQUAL MEASURE, ASKED
PERMREPS TO PLACE REDUCTION PROPOSALS IN CONTEXT, AND NOTED IN
THIS REGARD NETHERLANDS DEFENSE MINISTER VREDELING'S REPEATED
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CALLS FOR RAPID PROGRESS IN RATIONALIZATION AND STANDARDIZATION.

5. AMBASSADOR BRUCE (U.S.) STATED THAT UNITED STATES VIEWS DUTCH PROPOSALS "WITH GREAT CONCERN". HE SAID THAT, IF IMPLEMENTED, REDUCTIONS WOULD CONVINCE EASTERN LEADERS AND WESTERN PUBLICS THAT WE REGARD SPIRIT OF DETENTE AS SUBSTITUTE FOR FORCES IN BEING; THAT THEY WOULD SERVE TO UNDERMINE ALLIED NEGOTIATING POSITION IN MBFR AND THAT THEY WOULD RENDER HOLLOW FORCE LEVEL COMMITMENT MADE BY MINISTERS IN MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE 1975. HE SAID PROPOSED REDUCTIONS COULD MARK THE START OF A PROGRESSIVE UNRAVELLING OF PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR NATO DEFENSE CAPABILITIES, ADDING THAT SECURITY OF THE U.S. WOULD BE GRAVELY AFFECTED BY SUCH AN UNRAVELLING PROCESS. HE NOTED AND SYMPATHIZED WITH NETHERLANDS FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES, BUT STATED THAT DEFENSE IS FIRST RESPONSIBILITY, AND ASKED THAT THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT RECONSIDER ITS PROPOSALS. AMB BRUCE THEN CIRCULATED STATEMENT BASED ON POINTS IN REF C WITH RECOMMENDATION THAT SYG INCLUDE THEM IN HIS LETTER TO NETHERLANDS AUTHORITIES (ANNEX A, REF D).

6. KRAPF (FRG) STRONGLY AGREED WITH MC ASSESSMENT OF NETHERLANDS PLANS, REITERATING THAT MC HAD LABELLED THEM "UNACCEPTABLE", AND SAID THAT THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY FOR FRG TO FILL GAPS CAUSED BY NETHERLANDS REDUCTIONS. HE STATED THAT REDUCTIONS WOULD UNDERMINE DEFENSIVE STRENGTH THAT IS NECESSARY UNDERPINNING FOR DETENTE, AND THAT THEY WOULD REDUCE INCENTIVE FOR WP TO BARGAIN AT VIENNA. HE NOTED THAT NETHERLANDS EXPENDITURES FOR FOREIGN AID WOULD CLIMB SHARPLY IN 1976. HE STATED THAT FRG ALSO HAS SERIOUS PROBLEMS IN PUBLIC RECEIPTS, BUDGETARY SHORTFALLS, AND UNEMPLOYMENT, BUT NOTED THAT FRG WILL NOT ONLY HOLD, BUT WILL INCREASE DEFENSE BUDGET IN 1976. HE STATED THAT NETHERLANDS REDUCTIONS COULD HAVE REPERCUSSIONS IN FRG, MAKING IT DIFFICULT TO INCREASE DEFENSE EXPENDITURES, AND DOUBTED THAT A PROPORTIONATELY LARGER SHARE FOR FRG IN EUROPEAN DEFENSE BUDGET WAS WISE FROM A POLITICAL POINT OF VIEW. FRG FORCES HAVE ALREADY BEEN SIGNLED OUT FOR SPECIAL ATTENTION BY THE OTHER SIDE IN VIENNA. HE AGREED WITH AMBASSADOR BRUCE'S POINT ON MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE COMMITMENTS, ASKED IF NUCLEAR ROLE FOR NEPTUNE HAD BEEN CONSIDERATION IN NEPTUNE PHASE-OUT DECISION, STATED THAT IT WOULD TAKE 10 YEARS FOR NETHERLANDS TO BUILD BACK TO PRESENT LEVELS, AND ASKED NETHERLANDS TO "RECONSIDER ITS PLANS AND MEET ITS RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE COMMON DEFENSE."

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7. DE STAERCKE (BELGIUM), HOLDING UP BUWALDA'S LETTER OF AUGUST 14 (REF E), ASKED IF IT DESCRIBED A FAIT ACCOMPLI. HE OPINED THAT PRESENT MEETING WAS NOT A CONSULTATION BUT A NOTIFICATION. HE STRONGLY AGREED WITH MILITARY AUTHORITIES, US, AND FRG VIEWS, AND ASKED IF ALLIES WERE TO BE PUNISHED FOR CHANGED ECONOMIC SITUATION, WHICH WAS, IN ANY EVENT, WORSE IN BELGIUM THAN IN NETHERLANDS. NOTING THAT AT MORNING NAC

AMBASSADOR HARTOGH HAD PUSHED FOR EARLY INTRODUCTION OF OPTION III, HE ASKED WHY NETHERLANDS WANTED TO REDUCE CONVENTIONAL FORCES ALSO. DE STAERCCKE THEN REMINISCED ON THE FATE OF THE DELOS LEAGUE OF PERICLEAN GREECE, NOTING THAT AFTER YEARS OF SUCCESSFUL ALLIANCE, IT HAD BEEN THE SMALL STATES THAT STARTED THE UNRAVELLING. COMPARING POSITION OF ATHENS IN THAT ALLIANCE TO THAT OF U.S. IN NATO, HE NOTED PERICLES HAD DECLARED THAT THOSE WHO DO NOT CONTRIBUTE SHOULD HAVE NO RIGHT TO A SAY IN DECISIONS OF THE LEAGUE. FINALLY, HE REMARKED THAT, IF IT IS NOT A FAIT ACCOMPLI, HE WOULD USE ALL THE MORAL AND POLITICAL ARGUMENTS HE COULD ASSEMBLE TO ASK THEM TO RECONSIDER.

8. PECK (UK) STATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD LEARNED OF NETHERLANDS PROPOSALS "WITH GREAT REGRET". HE STATED THAT REDUCTIONS WERE UNJUSTIFIED BY PRESENT NETHERLANDS ECONOMIC SITUATION AND PRESENT CONTRIBUTION OF THAT COUNTRY TO COLLECTIVE DEFENSE. HE ENDORSED MC ASSESSMENT AND, CITING A LONDON TIMES ARTICLE ON QUEEN JULIANA'S SPEECH OF PREVIOUS DAY (REF F), ASKED IF THE SPEECH CONSTITUTED OFFICIAL GON ANNOUNCEMENT OF REDUCTIONS.

9. CATALANO (ITALY) REMARKED ON ITALIAN PLANS FOR RESTRUCTURING, WHICH HE STATED WOULD BE PRESENTED TO SHAPE ON SEPTEMBER 22 AND 23. HE NOTED THAT ECONOMIC SITUATION IN ITALY IS FAR WORSE THAN IN NETHERLANDS AND EXPRESSED WORRY THAT NETHERLANDS HAD DECIDED AGAIN TO CUT DEFENSE SO SOON AFTER LAST YEAR'S CONSULTATIONS. HE PREDICTED NETHERLANDS REDUCTION WOULD HAVE DISASTROUS EFFECT ON GOI'S ATTEMPT TO STRENGTHEN ITALY'S DEFENCES. SYG LUNS CONGRATULATED ITALY ON NEW \$800 MILLION BUDILING PROGRAM FOR NAVY, AND STATED THAT ITALIAN DEFENSE MINISTER HAD TOLD HIM THAT THERE WOULD BE SIMILAR PROGRAMS FOR AIR FORCE AND ARMY. HE ALSO NOTED THAT DENMARK HAS CARRIED OUT ITS PROGRAMS SINCE ITS CONSULTATIONS
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OF 1973 - 1974.

10. SVART (DENMARK) NOTED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD EXPRESSED ITS VIEWS ON SUBJECT BILATERALLY (REF G), BUT SAID THAT HE HAD SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR LANGUAGE CHANGES TO PO/75/105 (REF D). SYG DEFERRED DISCUSSION ON THESE AND ASKED ASYG HUMPHREYS TO COMMENT ON OVERALL NETHERLANDS FORCE PLANS FOR 1976 AND BEYOND.

11. HUMPHREYS NOTED THAT HE HAD TWO SOURCES OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON NETHERLANDS DEFENSE PLANS: PRESS REPORTS AND NETHERLANDS REPLY TO DPQ (75). FORMER INDICATED THAT TOTAL DEFENSE REDUCTION FOR 1976 WOULD APPROXIMATE 250 MILLION GUILDERS, OF WHICH 80 MILLION COULD BE ACCOUNTED FOR BY CRUISER DECOMMISSIONING AND MPA REPLACEMENT POSTPONEMENT. PRESS REPORTS ALSO FORECAST REDUCTIONS ON SIMILAR SCALE FOR 1977 AND 1978. NETHERLANDS RESPONSE TO DPQ(75) WAS HELPFUL IN FINDING WHERE REMAINING 170 MILLION GUILDER SAVING FOR 1976 LIES. IT SHOWS: SLOWDOWN IN RATE

OF INTRODUCTION OF NEW FRIGATES, DELAY IN INTRODUCTION OF FIRST
GUIDED-MISSILE DESTROYER, REDUCTIONS IN AVAILABILITY OF OTHER
UNITS (PRESUMABLY REFLECTING DECREASES IN MANNING LEVELS), UNCER-
TAINTY AS TO WHETHER NETHERLANDS WILL EXERCISE OPTION ON LAST 18
F-16 AIRCRAFT, AND SMALL REDUCTION IN TOTAL ARMY STRENGTH.

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12. HARTOGH THEN ADDRESSED DE STAERCKE'S QUESTION AS TO WHETHER
NETHERLANDS PROPOSALS CONSTITUTE A FAIT ACCOMPLI. HE STATED THAT
NETHERLANDS PROCEDURE IS FOR GOVERNMENT TO PROPOSE TO PARLIAMENT
ITS PLANS FOR FOLLOWING YEAR IN QUEEN'S SPEECH ON THIRD TUESDAY
OF EACH SEPTEMBER. NETHERLANDS DESIRE IN THIS CASE WAS TO HAVE
ALLIANCE VIEWS ON THESE PLANS PRIOR TO PARLIAMENTARY CONSIDERATION
OF BUDGET. IT WAS FOR THIS REASON, HE SAID, THAT NETHERLANDS USED
SPECIAL CONSULTATION PROCEDURES RATHER THAN "HIDING" THE REDUC-
TIONS IN NETHERLANDS DPQ REPLY. PRESENT MEETING WAS THEREFORE A
CONSULTATION. REGARDING MBFR COMMITMENTS, HE STATED THAT GON HAD
CAREFULLY CONSIDERED WHERE CUTS COULD BE MADE AND DETERMINED THAT
THE CENTER REGION WAS NOT A CANDIDATE. HE DECLARED THAT HE WOULD
RELAY ALLIED VIEWS ON APPLICABILITY OF THESE CUTS TO MBFR NEGOTIA-

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TING POSITION TO HIS GOVERNMENT. RESPONDING TO KRAPF'S POINT ON NEPTUNE NUCLEAR CAPABILITY, HE STATED THAT THIS CAPABILITY HAD NOT BEEN A CONSIDERATION IN NETHERLANDS DECISION. HARTOGH THEN VERIFIED THE ACCURACY OF ASYG HUMPHREYS' FIGURES, STATING THAT 83.5 MILLION GUILDERS OUT OF A TOTAL OF 250 MILLION GUILDERS TOTAL DEFENSE REDUCTIONS COULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE CRUISER AND MPA REDUCTIONS. SYG LUNS REMARKED THAT IF NETHERLANDS DECISIONS WERE NOT A FAIT ACCOMPLI, QUEEN JULIANA'S WORDS HAD BEEN POORLY CHOSEN. HE ASKED HARTOGH WHETHER PREVIOUS NETHERLANDS SHIPBUILDING PLANS WERE STILL ACCURATE. HARTOGH DODGED THIS QUESTION BUT NOTED THAT NETHERLANDS REAL DEFENSE EXPENDITURES WILL STILL RISE SLIGHTLY IN 1976 AND THAT NETHERLANDS WILL STILL CONTRIBUTE 3.8 PERCENT OF GNP TO DEFENSE. HE REPEATED EARLIER POINT ON INABILITY OF NETHERLANDS TO MAINTAIN WHITE PAPER PLAN AND STATED RHETORICALLY "EVERYBODY HAS GOT TO REDUCE." KRAPF STATED THAT THIS WAS NOT SO, SINCE FRG WILL INCREASE DEFENSE EXPENDITURES. HARTOGH RETRACTED HIS REMARK BUT COMMENTED THAT 250 MILLION GUILDERS IS ONLY A SMALL PART OF A TOTAL DEFENSE BUDGET OF 8 BILLION.

13. SYG THEN DIRECTED PERMREPS' ATTENTION TO HIS PROPOSED LETTER TO NETHERLANDS (REF D, ANNEX). DPC ACCEPTED U.S.-PROPOSED LANGUAGE ALONG LINES REF C AS AN ADDITION TO PRESENT PARA 3. AT SVART'S INITIATIVE, DPC AMENDED AND ACCEPTED FOLLOWING PARA 3 LANGUAGE (TO WHICH U.S. POINTS WILL BE ADDED). BEGIN TEXT:

3. THE ALLIES CONSIDER THAT THE PROPOSED REDUCTIONS WOULD NOT ONLY WEAKEN THE MILITARY POSTURE WHICH IS THE NECESSARY BASIS FOR A CONTINUATION OF EFFORTS TOWARD DETENTE IN EUROPE, BUT WOULD ALSO BE INCONSISTENT WITH THE DECLARATION ON ATLANTIC RELATIONS OF JUNE, 1974 CONCERNING ALLIED SECURITY PROBLEMS IN EUROPE AND THE SPIRIT OF RESOLVE EXPRESSED IN THAT DECLARATION. THE ALLIES HAVE BORNE IN MIND THE NETHERLANDS AUTHORITIES' ASSURANCES GIVEN DURING RECENT CONSULTATIONS ON THEIR DEFENSE PLAN AND ALSO TO KONLCAPABILITIES OF THE NETHERLANDS. THE ALLIES FURTHER APPEAL TO THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT TO SEEK TIME TO READJUST THEIR PROPOSED PLANS WITH THE OBJECTIVES OF COMMON DEFENSE PLANNING AS REPRESENTED BY THE AGREED FORCE GOALS AND WITH THE MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE OF JULY 1975. END TEXT.

14. SYG LUNS THEN ASKED FOR COMMENTS ON DRAFT PRESS RELEASE (ANNEX SECRET

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B, REF D). PECK (UK), STATING THAT IT WAS UNWISE TO DENIGRATE ALLIANCE CAPABILITIES IN PUBLIC, SUGGESTED THAT PARA 2 REFERENCE TO "GRAVE ADVERSE EFFECTS" BE CHANGED TO "SOME EFFECTS". LUNS COUNTERED WITH SIMPLY "ADVERSE EFFECTS", WHICH DPC ACCEPTED. PECK ALSO SUGGESTED ADDING NEW PARA 2 PENULTIMATE SENTENCE AS FOLLOWS: "THE COMMITTEE HAS ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE XSECURITY OF THE ALLIANCE COULD ONLY BE ASSURED IF ALL ITS MEMBERS UNDERTOOK

A FAIR SHARE OF THE COMMON BURDEN OF COLLECTIVE DEFENCE, AND THAT IT SAW NO JUSTIFICATION FOR THE NETHERLANDS TO REDUCE STILL FURTHER THE LEVEL OF ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE ALLIANCE'S DEFENSIVE CAPABILITY." DPC ACCEPTED THIS SENTENCE. HARTOGH SUGGESTED TWO MINOR CORRECTIONS WHICH DPC ALSO ACCEPTED. SVART (DENMARK) THEN STATED THAT HE DESIRED TO ADDRESS QUESTION OF PRINCIPLE AS TO WHETHER THERE SHOULD BE A PRESS RELEASE AT ALL. SYG REPLIED THAT PRESS RELEASE IS ALWAYS ISSUED CONCURRENTLY WITH DISPATCH OF CLASSIFIED LETTER TO NATIONAL AUTHORITIES. HARTOGH OBJECTED, NOTING THAT PRESS RELEASE IS "SEVERE" AND THAT IMMEDIATE RELEASE WOULD MAKE PROCESS OF RECONSIDERATION MORE DIFFICULT. LUNS REPLIED THAT THE ONLY ARGUMENT TO WHICH NETHERLANDS WOULD BE SENSITIVE WAS NATO'S, AND THAT SINCE NETHERLANDS HAD SEEN FIT TO MAKE REDUCTIONS PUBLIC, NATO MUST RESPOND IN PUBLIC. HARTOGH SUGGESTED THAT NATO PRESS SPOKESMEN, IF ASKED, SAY MERELY THAT CONSULTATION IS GOING ON, AND ISSUE PRESS RELEASE AS APPROVED BY DPC IN ONE OR TWO WEEKS. HE ADVISED THAT HE WAS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO AUTHORIZE RELEASE AT PRESENT TIME. REQUEST FOR DELAY WAS QUICKLY AGREED TO BY SVART, BUSCH, BACON (CANADA) AND ERALP (TURKEY). AMBASSADOR BRUCE RESERVED ON QUESTION OF PRESS RELEASE TIMING PENDING WASHINGTON INSTRUCTIONS. COMMENT: WE INTRODUCED RESERVATION TO AVOID PRECIPITATE RELEASE AND WOULD PLAN TO LIFT OUR RESERVATION IN TIME FOR RELEASE NEXT WEEK, AS AGREED BY ALL OTHERS. WE WILL FORWARD FRESH DRAFT OF RELEASE WHEN AVAILABLE. BRUCE

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